municipalities themselves. Government will be prepared to help the municipalities by means of substantial grants and by giving loans. It is the duty of the municipal administration to point out sources from which these loans can be liquidated in course of time. The constitution of Irinjalakuda into a municipality adds one more municipal council which will have to tackle its own local problems. I hope that the municipal councillors and chairmen of all the municipalities will take a greater initiative in all these schemes of improvement. In view of the fact that the amending bill is of a very comprehensive nature and introduces radical changes in certain matters Government have thought it necessary to postpone for a year elections which in the normal course ought to have been held during the next two months. It is considered inadvisable to have an election at a time when the whole constitution of municipalities is undergoing a radical change.

Medical and Public Health.

9. The activities of the Medical and Public Health Departments are showing considerable expansion. Increased provision has been made in the budget for dietary charges in the various hospitals and dispensaries. Government are every day faced with the problem of providing better and more adequate provision for medical aid especially in the rural areas. The demand for the opening of dispensaries comes from almost every rural centre. With the necessarily limited resources available to the State it will not be possible to meet every one of these demands. In fact the opening of new dispensaries is very often undertaken without sufficient forethought with the result that there is a danger of there being a number of inefficient and ill-equipped dispensaries throughout the State. I consider that the resources of the Government should be spent on a more scientific basis so that the institutions that we establish should be efficient and properly equipped. Quality rather than quantity must be the aim in the establishment of such institutions. Provision has been made in the budget for more leprosy clinics, health centres and the completion of the new up to date hospital at Mattancherry. In addition to these it is proposed to establish a Radium Institute attached to the General Hospital at Ernakulam for the treatment of cancers and allied diseases. The greater part of the funds for this institution will be provided by the share that we got out of the collections for the King George V Jubilee Memorial Fund. The establishment of

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the Radium Institute will be a very useful addition to the medical equipment of the State.

Development Schemes.

10. The programme that I forecasted about certain schemes of development has been steadily pursued during the last one year. The electrification of Ernakulam and Trichur has now been undertaken and the work has advanced very considerably and it is expected that electricity will be available at Ernakulam in September and at Trichur in November. It is gratifying to note that even at the very commencement fairly substantial industrial loads are expected to be brought in. The Cochin State Power and Light Corporation who are the licensees for these two areas are already completing negotiations with the Tata Oil Mills Limited at Ernakulam for the supply of power to this concern. They are also carrying on negotiations for the supply of power to the Spinning Mill that is under construction near Trichur by the Cochin Textiles Limited. These two industrial concerns would take up a fairly substantial load at the very commencement of these schemes. It is proposed to supply electricity to Nemmara in the course of next year and provision has been made in the budget for this purpose. This scheme will be run by Government themselves as a part of the water works scheme at Nemmara. Arrangements are also under contemplation for the supply of electricity to Irinjalakuda town. With a view to encourage private enterprise in industry Government have taken preference shares for Rs. 1½ lakhs in the Cochin Textiles Limited. This amount represents 25 per cent of the issued capital of the company and is in the form of cumulative preference shares carrying interest at 6 per cent per annum. From the point of view of safety the investment is absolutely first rate and Government have not taken any risk in making this investment. There has been some criticism in certain quarters about this investment of the Government. Doubts have been raised whether there are any special facilities in the State for the growth of the textile industry especially in view of the fact that no cotton is grown in the State itself. The fact that the State does not grow cotton is no argument against the starting of textile mills if other conditions are favourable. In fact in Japan and the United Kingdom which are two of the greatest textile centres in the world no cotton is grown at all. The proximity of cotton growing districts to the State and the facilities afforded by the port for importing cotton from Bombay and Sind, the

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